

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: YAMAMOTO et al.  
Serial No.: Rule 53(b) of 10/139,248  
Filed: July 9, 2003  
For: STORAGE CONTROLLER  
Art Unit: Unassigned (2188 previously in parent application)  
Examiner: Unassigned (G. Portka previously in parent application)

**CLAIM FOR PRIORITY**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

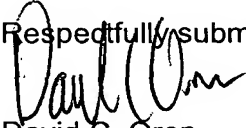
July 9, 2003

Sir:

Pursuant to 35 USC 119 and 37 CFR §1.55, the Applicants hereby claim the right of priority based on the following foreign application(s) filed in Japan:

Application No. 9-248177 filed on September 12, 1997

A Certified copy of this Japanese application was filed on September 9, 1998, in application Serial No. 09/149,666, the ancestor application of the present continuation application.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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